

REMARKS

Revocation of Power of Attorney

Applicant is enclosing herewith a Revocation of Power of Attorney and Appointment of New Attorney naming BRUCE H. TROXELL as attorney of record in this patent application. It is requested that all further correspondence regarding this matter be forwarded to TROXELL LAW OFFICE PLLC at the address listed on the enclosed form. A CHANGE OF ADDRESS form is also be submitted herewith.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cherdron et al.

Drawings

It is noted that the Examiner has accepted the drawings as originally filed with this Application.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-7 and has added new claims 8-10 to this application. It is believed that the new claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and define subject matter that is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art.

The new claims are directed toward a method of forming a ceramic filter medium, which comprises the steps of: a) selecting an aluminum residue ash; b) performing a high temperature calcination of the aluminum residue ash and forming an α aluminum oxide (α - Al_2O_3) utilizing a high temperature kiln; c) grinding the α aluminum oxide to a grain size between 250 meshes and 800 meshes and forming a ground α aluminum oxide; d) adding an admixture selected from a group consisting of a binding agent, a porous forming agent, a fluxing agent, and a stabilizing agent to the ground α aluminum oxide; e) mixing and refining the ground α aluminum oxide and the admixture and forming a mixed and refined ceramic filter medium; f) molding the mixed and refined ceramic filter medium forming a formed

ceramic filter medium having an embryo shape; g) drying the formed ceramic filter medium and forming a dried ceramic filter medium; h) sintering the dried ceramic filter medium and forming a sintered ceramic filter medium; and i) cooling the sintered ceramic filter medium and finishing the ceramic filter medium.

Other embodiments of the present invention include: in the performing step b) the high temperature calcination is performed at a temperature between 800°C and 1800°C; and in the performing step b) aluminum nitride and aluminum carbide are utilized to stabilize the aluminum residue ash during the high temperature calcination.

The cited reference to Cherdrone et al. teaches a method of manufacturing aluminum hydroxide including the steps of adding at least one mineralizer to a starting aluminum hydroxide; performing a calcination process in the presence of recycled seed crystals.

Cherdrone et al. do not teach molding the mixed and refined ceramic filter medium forming a formed ceramic filter medium having an embryo shape; drying the formed ceramic filter medium and forming a dried ceramic filter medium; sintering the dried ceramic filter medium and forming a sintered ceramic filter medium; nor do Cherdrone et al. teach cooling the sintered ceramic filter medium and finishing the ceramic filter medium.

It is axiomatic in U.S. patent law that, in order for a reference to anticipate a claimed structure, it must clearly disclose each and every feature of the claimed structure. Applicant submits that it is abundantly clear, as discussed above, that Cherdrone et al. do not disclose each and every feature of Applicant's new claims and, therefore, could not possibly anticipate these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Absent a specific showing of these features, Cherdrone et al. cannot be said to anticipate any of Applicant's new claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It is further submitted that Cherdrone et al. do not disclose, or suggest any modification of the specifically disclosed structures that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at Applicant's claimed structure. Thus, it is not believed that Cherdrone et al. render obvious any of Applicant's new claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

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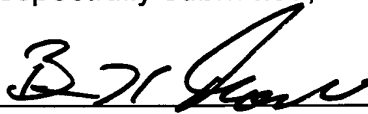
Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 14, 2006

By:


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